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Dr. John Jasinski
University President

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DR. JOHN JASINSKI

University President

To all new Northwest students:

Welcome to Northwest! The entire campus community is excited that you have chosen this great university as the place to continue your education. As Northwest's incoming president, let me say how privileged I am to greet an incoming class whose members possess so much talent, potential and determination.

Since my tenure as university president begins July 1, I am, in a sense, a freshman myself, and I fully share your excitement at being in a new place confronting new challenges and possibilities. Let me assure you that it's going to be a great year at Northwest, and I encourage you to take full advan-

tage of the many campus programs, services and organizations that exist to help you succeed academically and socially.

I know that in addition to being excited and eager about starting college this fall, many of you are also a little nervous and uncertain. That's only natural, and it's why Northwest's orientation activities for new students, like Summer Orientation, Advisement and Registration (SOAR), are so important. Have fun learning about the campus and meeting your new classmates, but re-



Dr. John Jasinski

member that SOAR is a great chance to ask questions and make contacts that can help smooth your transition to university life.

As someone who taught at Northwest for many years, and who has long studied the way colleges and universities serve their students, I can tell you without reservation that everyone

here will do all we can to help you achieve your academic, personal and professional goals. Survey after survey shows that Northwest is a national leader – many would say the national leader – in both

student satisfaction and degree completion, and the heartfelt commitment of our faculty and staff to your development both in and beyond the classroom is one of the university's proudest traditions.

Thank you for choosing Northwest, and I look forward to meeting and getting to know as many of you as I can. Understand that you are full members of our shared campus community, and that I will always welcome your comments, suggestions and concerns – in person or electronically. Please track me down, drop me a message or stop me as we are out and about enjoying our beautiful campus!

College is one of life's great adventures, and over the next few

years you will change and achieve in ways that none of you can now imagine. But there is one thing I believe you will come to recognize almost immediately: Northwest is a truly exceptional place to learn, live and grow while exploring the limitless possibilities that will develop during your university career.

It is a pleasure to join you as a new face on campus – let's learn and grow together! Welcome to your new home away from home, Bearcats!

Sincerely,
Dr. John Jasinski,
President, Northwest Missouri
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JACKIE ELLIOT

VP for Student Affairs

Greetings!

I am delighted to officially welcome you to Northwest Missouri State University, which has offered students a quality educational experience for more than 100 years. From quiet beginnings we have become a nationally recognized university with local roots and a global reputation. I imagine that you are already going through the emotional highs and lows that most students go through when preparing to leave for college. Don't fret. What you are experiencing is perfectly normal.

Here is some good news...you have made a great choice! At Northwest, we take seriously our responsibility to help you succeed. We will challenge you aca-

demically and encourage you to get involved in out-of-class activities, providing the support necessary to help you be successful. We expect our students to take responsibility for their learning and personal development, but faculty, staff, and other students are available to assist along the way. We want you to know that we really care about you.

It has often been said that there is a real emphasis on "family" at Northwest. We take pride in that reputation and often refer to ourselves as the "Northwest Family", one that includes students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. Northwest faculty and staff sincerely want to help and are available if you have questions or concerns. In addition, Northwest is

an University that believes in continuous quality improvement, so we encourage your suggestions and feedback on our programs, services and policies.

In closing, I want you to know how pleased we are to introduce you to Northwest. We pledge to do our best to make your undergraduate experience the best it can be, and we look forward to seeing you on campus this fall. Please do not hesitate to call anytime you have questions that need to be answered. Best wishes, and again, welcome to Northwest!

Sincerely,

Jackie Elliott
Vice President for Student Affairs



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ERIN HOLM

Student Body President

Dear Future Bearcats,

As the Student Body president, I want to welcome you to Northwest and the college experience. I hope you are all excited about becoming a part of the Northwest Missouri State University family.

The college experience is all about what you make it, and I have some advice for you to make it the best it can be! There are three tips I have in mind that will really help you succeed over the next four years.

First and most importantly, remember that you're here to learn. Make sure you're attending your classes and hitting the

books every now and then. Stay organized when it comes to assignments and projects, and be sure to spend some time in the wonderful B.D. Owens library.

Secondly, keep an open mind. This goes for when you are meeting your roommate for the first time, or thinking about joining an organization. There are a lot of ways to get involved on campus, so feel free to try something new. Whether you join an organization and become president, or just join something for fun, making that connection with the people in that organization will really be worth it. College is a time to be whoever you want to be, so make new

friends and stay open to all kinds of experiences.

Last, but not least, have some fun! Yes, we are all here to work hard and achieve academically, but college is also a time to experience new things. This campus is full of life, so check things out! Go to sporting events, hang with friends in the Union or participate in the activities in your residence hall. Studying and doing well in the classroom is important, however, having fun with your new friends is also an important aspect of college life.

If you don't know where your classes are, or maybe you want to get involved

in an organization but don't quite know which one, feel free to come by the Student Senate office in the Office of Campus Activities, located in the J.W. Jones Student Union and ask us any questions! We'd love to help!

Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you all in August!

Sincerely,
Erin Holm
Student Body President

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SETH COOK

Editor in Chief

By Seth Cook
Editor in Chief

So here you are at the beginning of your college career.

You have no idea what to expect other than what you've seen in movies like "Animal House" and "Road Trip," which have painted pretty wild pictures in your mind.

So what's to come? Will college be full of wild parties and endless stories to tell your friends back home or homework that seems to take over your life for the next four (or so) years?

What it all comes down to is what you make of your time at Northwest.

Over the course of your col-

lege years you can make your life a scene from a cliché college movie, study until the early hours of morning and earn good grades or hopefully, find a good balance between the two.

Northwest is full of possibilities no matter where you come from, what your interests are or who you hope to become in college. One of the best things about Northwest, which you will soon discover, is the variety of opportunities for a very diverse campus.

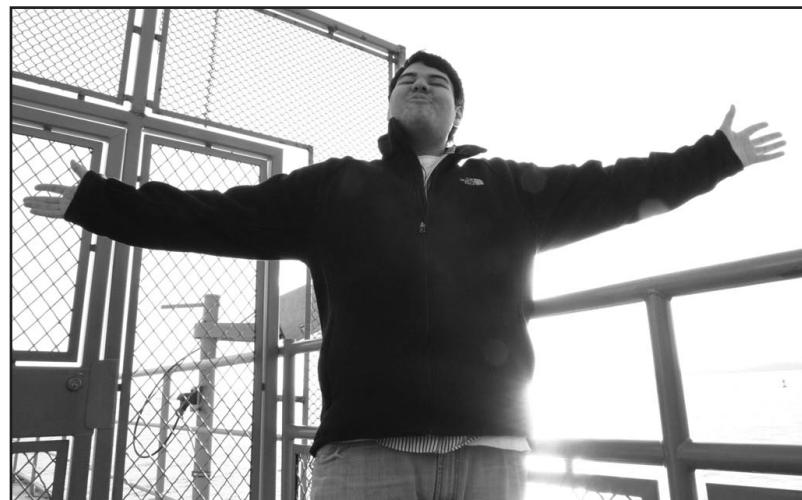
Tons of organizations are available to accommodate each and every person on the Northwest campus, whether it's an athletic team or spirit squad, a group to show your more intellectual side or a

more creative approach.

If organizations aren't your style, don't worry – there are still tons of ways to meet new people and find your place in college.

Living in the dorms for your first year may not seem like much fun, between sharing a tiny space with someone you may or may not know or having 50 people come in and out of your bathroom on a daily basis. Dorm life at Northwest is one of the easiest and most fun ways to meet lifelong friends in college. During study breaks you'll find yourself having plenty of Nerf gun fights, movie nights and random get-togethers in your friends' rooms.

Aside from making friends and



trying to find yourself in college, find time to study for your classes. You'll quickly learn that the professors at Northwest are here to help you succeed. In my time at Northwest, I have learned that the professors are willing to help you, even outside of class, and are very good about meeting during their office hours. Take advantage of the time outside of class to work on

homework or ask questions – it's worth it in the long run.

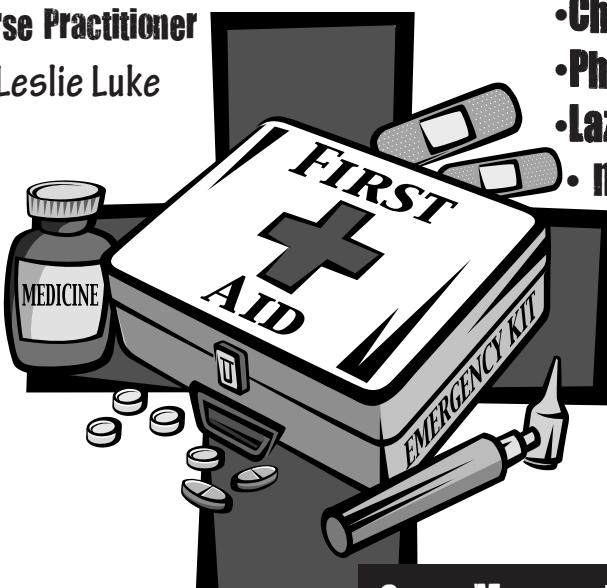
As your last summer living at home comes to a close and your time at Northwest approaches, keep my advice in mind. Above all, have fun while you're here – college may not be exactly like the movies, but if you want it to be, it could end up a pretty good story itself.

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Timeless Northwest traditions connect students to the past

By Sydney Moore
Features Editor

Life on the Northwest campus is full of stories, some rumors and some true. As your time as a Bearcat begins, you will hear about Roberta Hall, which is said to be haunted by the spirit of a former co-ed, Roberta Steel, who died after the building caught fire in 1951.

The story of Roberta Hall is just one of the traditional stories passed down each year at Northwest. Others, however, are much more light-hearted and help paint a picture of what you might expect when you come to college.

Kissing Bridge - It is said that a female student isn't officially a co-ed until she has been kissed on the bridge before the first snowfall. The Kissing Bridge received a makeover and a new location in the late 1990s when it was rebuilt closer to Colden Hall.

University Seal/Bell Tower - The University's seal, which is based on the State of Missouri seal,

sits in the center of the Bell Tower. It is customary for students to avoid walking on the seal out of respect. However, in later years, word was anyone who trod on the seal risked flunking all their final exams.

Walkout Day - Everybody reveres the tradition of skipping class the Friday before Homecoming, but did you know it was begun by two literary societies on campus? In 1915, students from the Eurekans and the Philomatheans quietly made plans to walk out of class. They dutifully showed up for their 8 a.m. classes when suddenly, a bugle sounded through the halls, and 208 students (out of 300 enrolled) abruptly left. They all marched past the President's Residence, singing the Normal School songs and shouting the school yells. Unfortunately, President Richardson thought the throng of students looked like an insurrection and he let them have it. The students merely laughed and not long after, the president was able to join in the laughter. He later gave permission

to continue the tradition, as long as the president was notified.

Early Walkout Days retained the surprise factor, and students waited in eager anticipation for the day when the bugle (and later the Bell of '48) would sound, signaling their freedom. In these years, Walkout Days were characterized by picnics in the woods and baseball games between students and faculty. In the '40s and '50s, the day became associated with the annual freshman initiation. These days, the event is inextricably tied in with Homecoming and is built into the schedule. Students usually use the day to prepare Homecoming house decorations and parade floats, as well as take advantage of the party atmosphere throughout town. At 8 a.m. each Walkout Day, the president of the Student Senate and the University president ceremonially ring the Memorial Bell of '48, an echo of the first bugle's notes.

Mike the Dog - Before Bobby Bearcat, we had Mike the Dog. He was a little tramp dog who



file photo

frequented the campus in 1916-1917 and endeared himself to students and faculty alike. He was a big sports fan, never missing a home game and proudly wearing his green and white "M" blanket. Sometimes he went to classes and sat under the instructor's desk. He met his end when he inadvertently

drank arsenate of lead, mistaking it for water. Students collected money to pay for a stone monument to their canine companion, and the marker stands today to the east of the Administration Building.

All tradition information provided by nwmissouri.edu/centennial

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CARS ON CAMPUS

Information About Parking, Tickets and Rides

Answers to all your car and parking questions

By Greg Miller
University News Editor

For students with a car, there are parking spaces available when you move in this fall.

All students can purchase a parking permit from the Student Services office if they wish to park on campus. The permits cost \$90 and are valid for one year.

Parking permits on campus are used to help guarantee everyone gets a place to park.

"For residents there's a one-to-one ratio for parking spots ... with faculty it's about two-

to-one," said Clarence Green campus safety director at Northwest.

Green also stressed the importance of obeying traffic laws while on campus and noticing street signs along campus roads. He also said it's important for pedestrians to notice signs as well.

"This is a largely pedestrian campus ... but if you think it's unsafe, don't assume they're (drivers) are going to yield," Green said.

Green said the reason for the parking fee is to help pay for and maintain streets on campus.

"(The) State doesn't pay for

streets on campus, they only pay for academic buildings," Green said.

Passes are assigned based on whether you are a resident on campus or commuter student. Campus Safety will write you a ticket if they find your vehicle is parked in the wrong lot.

He also reminds students if they have visitor's or come back from home in a different vehicle, you can obtain a visitor's permit.

Students who have any questions are encouraged to call Campus Safety at 660-562-1254 Green said.

Safe Ride: They'll pick you up

By Greg Miller
University News Editor

Safe Ride began five years as an effort to reduce intoxication in students while driving.

The program is modeled after a similar program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Here, students are paid through works study, to take students home from bars or houses if they've had too much to drink.

"On a Friday and Saturday night, there shouldn't be a single D.W.I." said Clarence Green, director of Campus Safety.

Green said five years ago, before

the program started, there were 115 D.W.I. arrests. Now it is down to 15. He also said there has not been a single death from drunk driving since safe ride started.

Safe ride runs from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. every Friday and Saturday.

While some complain safe ride takes too long to arrive some places, "it's well worth the wait," said Green.

"We can't measure alcohol sales, but we know there are a reduced number of drivers on roads while intoxicated," said Green.

If you are at a party and feel you shouldn't drive home, you can call safe ride at 660-562-1245.

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TAMERA DUNN

RHA President

To the Newest Northwest Bearcats

Once upon a time, I was a freshman as well. Okay, so...maybe not that long ago, but it certainly feels that way when I think back upon all of the experiences that I've had within my first two years at Northwest. I can only hope for the same for each and every one of you that choose to read this.

A day in the life of a college student is one of constant decision making and pressure. Will you get a job on campus or in the town? Will you enjoy having a roommate or will the two of you be unable to live together? Will you be someone who excels in the college class-

room, or someone who is okay to just get by? There is no real way of knowing until you are immersed within your first month at Northwest.

Bearcat everything covers the town of Maryville. Between athletics and the pride that students take in their institution of higher learning, it is impressive to think that students really do fuel this community. I can't count the number of times that I've gone to Wal-Mart anymore, let alone any of the businesses in town. The conveniences of the small town feel as well as the friendly atmosphere draw many people to Northwest Missouri State.

Always and forever there will be at least one activity on the Northwest campus to spike your interest. There are so many great organizations to choose from, and as the president of Residence Hall Association, I work with all of the halls (and by extension the on-campus student population) to make some really exciting and fun things happen here at Northwest.

A long time ago okay, so two years is NOT that long ago, I became a college student. I came to Northwest thinking that I would go to class, do my homework, go to bed, and then hit the repeat button Monday through Friday. Instead, I became extremely involved in

organizations, met the love of my life, and was definitely not the 4.0 student I thought I was going to be. I'm okay with that, because I've learned so much more throughout my organizational involvements and made so many connections at Northwest, at the regional level, and at the national level. Those connections and friendships mean the world to me, and I can't imagine my college experience being any different than how it turned out.

Bearcat fever has definitely infected me, and I will forever be a proud supporter of the students on this campus who make everything possible. Without you, there would

not be a university here, and for that, I cannot thank you enough. Thank you for choosing Northwest Missouri State, and I hope to meet you at some point during your experiences as a Bearcat.

Oh, by the way, you should go back and read the first word of every paragraph. It's probably the truest statement that I've ever heard in my life, and I hope carries the same weight for you as it does for me.

Tamera Dunn
Residence Hall Association President 2008-2010
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CHAD JACKSON

Mayor of Maryville

Greetings Bearcat Students,

It is a pleasure to have you here living in our great city. I am hopeful that you will find your time here at Northwest rewarding. As the representative of the City of Maryville, I not only want to welcome you, but also give you some information about Maryville that you may find useful as well as enrich your time here.

Those at City Hall are here to serve everyone here in Maryville and strive to excel in our relationship with businesses, education and citizens. From recre-

ation at Mozingo Lake to Code Enforcement we want to be able to answer all of your questions that you may have. If you will be living off campus you may need to visit our website or City Hall for questions about water/sewer service; city codes that may affect you; and zoning information that may restrict where you can live. On our website there is also many other helpful links that will help connect you with Maryville.

Citizens along with the City are looking at ways for continuous improvement to our community. There have also been

very effective grassroots efforts such as the improvements to downtown and the start to pedestrian trail development which will have the first phase on the southwest side of town and at Mozingo Lake Park completed this summer.

Another example is the voters passed a capital improvement sales tax last year to fund many



of our needed infrastructure improvements. As you can see, citizen involvement is vital for positive change for Maryville.

There are opportunities for you to be involved with many campus activities that

serve the community. Also there are many organizations in the community to be involved with that may be of

interest to you. If you are interested, I suggest that you contact the Chamber of Commerce as they will assist in making that connection. They also have a wealth of information that will allow you to take full advantage of Maryville and Nodaway County.

May we all serve to make Maryville a great place to study, work, play and live. Please let us know how we can assist you.

Blessings,
Chad Jackson
Mayor, City of Maryville

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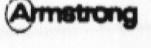
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The many uses of the Bearcat card

By Brian Johnson
Feature Reporter

The heart of Northwest is the Bearcat Card. Without this card, a student is nothing. In addition to a school ID, the card has many other uses and will help students connect to the campus.

Food is one of the most common uses. The Bearcat card can be used for in the Student Union at the JW's Grille Restaurant, The Runt, Java City at both the Union and the Station and the Food Court at the following places:

- Bene Pizzeria
- Bene Pasta
- Quiznos Subs
- Cranberry Farms
- Zoca
- Salad Garden
- W.O.K.
- Cranberry Farms
- Grille Works
- Tmmy Ymmy
- Kettle Classics

The Bearcat card can also be used

for pizza delivery from Pizza Hut and Domino's, and to purchase food at the Station.

Debit can also be added to the Bearcat card's repertoire. At any U.S. Bank ATM, the card can be used to withdraw debit from a student's U.S. Bank account.

The card is also used as an ID card at the following locations on campus:

- Library
- Textbook Services
- Fitness Center
- Student Recreation Center
- Bookstore
- DVD Rental at the Station
- Administration Building (ticket purchases)

The Bearcat card can be obtained on the second floor of the Student Union and in the Northwest I.D. Office. Replacement cards are \$15 and students should call the Northwest I.D. Office at 562-1430 to report their card missing or stolen.

This information was provided by www.nwmissouri.edu

CAMPUS DINING

A Guide to the Union

By Brian Bosiljevac
Sports Editor

J.W. Jones Student Union is located at the heart of campus for a reason.

Whether you are looking for a bite to eat, a place to study or just a place to sit and talk with friends you can find it at the Student Union.

The bottom level of the Union is where you can find something to eat. No matter what kind of food you are in the mood for the Union has it. The food court offers you a taste from all over the world.

Bene offers Italian cuisine with pizza and pasta. WOK will settle your Chinese food cravings. Cranberry Farms will help you cope without mom's home cooking. Then there is the grille where you can always pick up a burger. Better show up early around lunch time to beat the line that forms for the various sub sandwiches Quiznos has to offer and lastly for you vegetarians we've got the salad bar.

Also if you are looking for a change of pace don't forget J.W.'s Grille that provides a restaurant atmosphere.

On the second floor of the Union you can find the Runt where you can stop by to pick up groceries or grab some ice cream, pretzels or a smoothie. The second floor is also home to Java City for all you caffeine fiends.

Also a lot of the campus offices are located on the second floor of the Union. You can meet with people from Auxiliary Services, Campus Activities, Campus Dining, IIC and Minority Affairs, Residential Life and Student Affairs.

Lastly, before you leave the second floor don't forget to stop into the Bearcat Book Store, where you can pick up your Northwest apparel, or books and school materials.

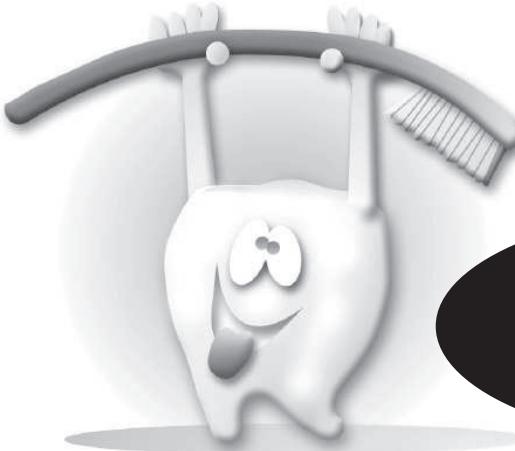
To round out your trip of the Union stop by the third floor where you will find meeting rooms, the Boardroom and Ballroom. These rooms may be booked by anyone to accommodate an event you may want to plan.

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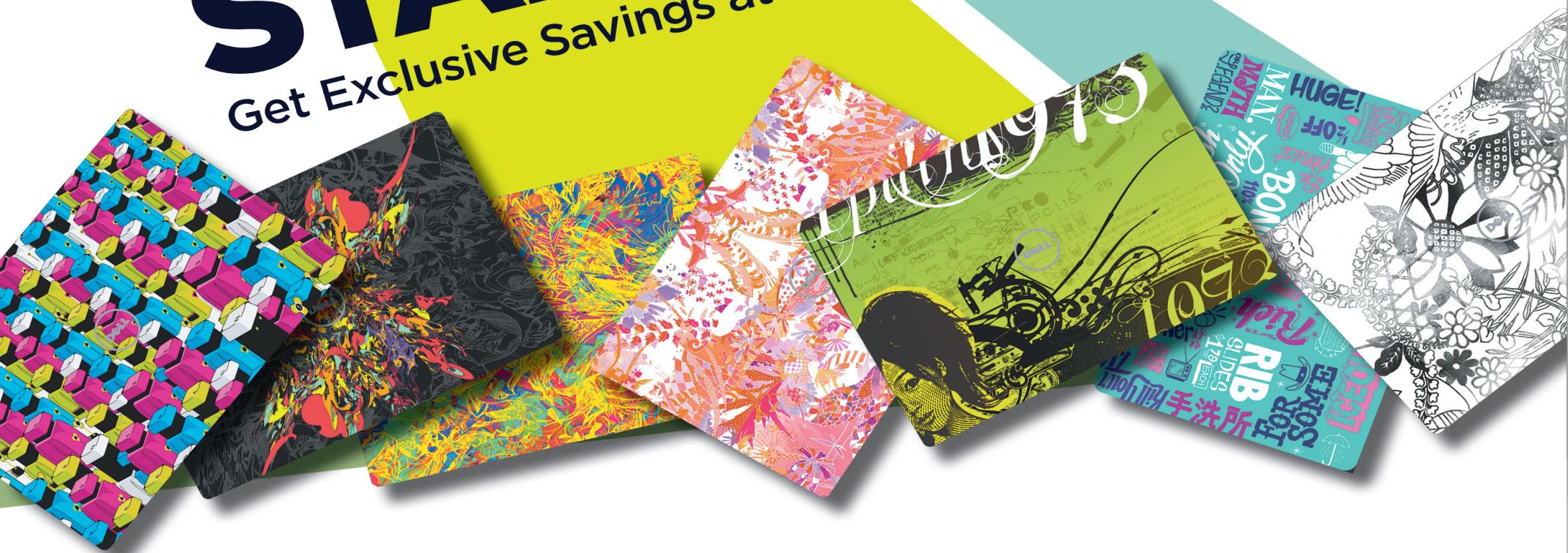
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- Calvary Chapel NW
24770 Interlude Road,
562-0001
- Christian Campus House
904 College Ave., 582-7170
- Church of Christ
217 E. Sixth St., 582-2651
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1721 S. Munn Ave.
- Church of the Nazarene
1139 S. Munn Ave.,
562-2420
- Community of Faith Church
921 E. Third St., 582-2623
- Countryside Christian Church
- W. 16th & Country Club Road
582-8872
- First Baptist Church
121 E. Jenkins St., 562-2616
- First Christian Church
201 W. Third St., 582-4101
- First Presbyterian Church
211 S. Main St., 582-4257
- First United Methodist Church
102 N. Main St., 528-4821
- Hope Lutheran Church
931 S. Main St., 582-3262
- Jehovah's Witnesses
225 E. 16th St., 582-3916
- Laura Street Baptist Church
120 S. Laura St., 582-4773
- Living Hope Church-The Ville
118 W. Third St.,

- 816-279-7566
- Lutheran Campus Center
718 College Ave., 582-2090
- Newman Catholic Center
606 College Ave., 582-7373
- Peer Ministers
549 W. Fourth St.,
- Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
415 W 1st St., 582-2651
- St. Gregory's Catholic Church
333 S. Davis St., 582-3833
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
901 N. Main St., 582-5832
- Temple Baptist Church
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ENTERTAINMENT

Things to do on and Off Campus

Events provided by the Student Activities Council

By Brian Johnson
Feature Reporter

One of the more active groups in bringing entertainment to the Northwest campus is the Student Activities Council (SAC). SAC's goals are to provide events and activities for the student body as well as alternative late night activities and events.

Some of the more regular activities that SAC schedules are:

- Poker nights
- SAC lunches
- Movie nights at the Hangar
- Unplugged nights featuring

music artists
-Bingo Night
-Spa Night

There are plans to continue these regular activities as well as new ones, such as a haunted house around Halloween according to incumbent SAC President Stephanie Robbins

Also, be on the lookout for the annual spring concert put on by SAC. With performers like Dierks Bentley and Boys Like Girls putting on shows here in the past, more popular artists are sure to be coming to Northwest in the years to come.

Entertaining places to go to get off campus

By Caleb Hayworth
Entertainment Reporter

So now you've got the college student freedom, but now what are going to do with all your free time? Mozingo Lake is a must see and offers excellent outdoor fun. If you are at least nineteen years old and looking for some nighttime fun, you could hit up one of the many local bars. The Hangar movie theater provides some outstanding afternoon to nighttime fun as well. No matter what trips

your trigger you are sure to find something entertaining to do in Maryville.

Bearcat Lanes – This popular bowling alley, located on 1803 S Main St., works comfortably into a college student's budget; \$3.50 per game and \$2 for shoe rental. Many bowling leagues are available to join and discounts are offered to league members.

The Hangar – This five-screen movie theater and restaurant combo is uniquely designed within an airplane hangar, and

tickets are a marginally affordable \$8. Once a month SAC offers a free movie night at The Hangar showing recently released blockbuster hits.

Mozingo Lake – Located approximately 7 miles east from campus, a great time of outdoor fun awaits at Mozingo Lake. Take advantage of the beach, picnic areas, and many hiking trails while you can during the warmer months. For avid golfers test your might on the challenging championship Mozingo Lake Golf Course.

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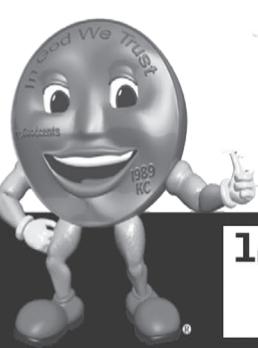
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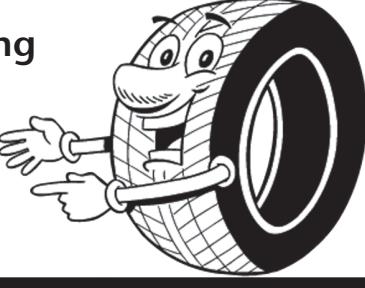


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COLLEGE ADVICE

What Not to do in School

By Sydney Moore
Features Editor

In the tons of college information you probably received over the course of your senior year of high school, you learned what Greek life is all about, the various majors available at the schools and you possibly even got a glimpse of what a real college dorm room looks like.

In the midst of the many information packets, however, no one ever tells you what not to do when you get to college. After a couple of years in college, the tricks have been observed and learned and it's time to pass them on to the newest Bearcats.

Don't carry a tray in the food court – seems silly, right? For some reason, using one during the busy lunch or dinner hours screams 'freshman' loud enough for everyone to hear. If you want to look 'cool' in the Union and not stand out, look silly carrying everything without the little plastic trays instead.

Don't party too much – In the first few weeks at Northwest, you'll hear about a ton of different parties. The fraternities are recruiting new members, the sororities want to get to know you and everyone else in Maryville is excited to be back. Opportunities for parties are everywhere and it's a great way to make new

friends. Take advantage of the fun times, but don't get too carried away and forget why you're really at Northwest.

Don't blow off homework – Although this seems like common sense because you're here to learn, living in the dorms your first year can be distracting. After making new friends on your floor and learning the ropes of dorm life, studying might become one of your last priorities. You'd much rather be watching movies, learning more about your new friends or exploring the town on random adventures. Don't let school sit on the back burner though, it will definitely come back to bite you.

Don't forget about your friends from high school – Sure, college is about starting a new chapter of your life, but if I learned one lesson freshman year, it was to never forget what you had at home. Of course you'll find your place at Northwest and make plenty of new friends, some who will be lifelong best friends, but there is no better escape than talking to your high school friends when you're having a hard time. Adjusting to college takes time and your old friends know you the best, so rely on them to help you when you get stuck in a hard place.

Don't be scared – Pretty vague, huh? Coming to college

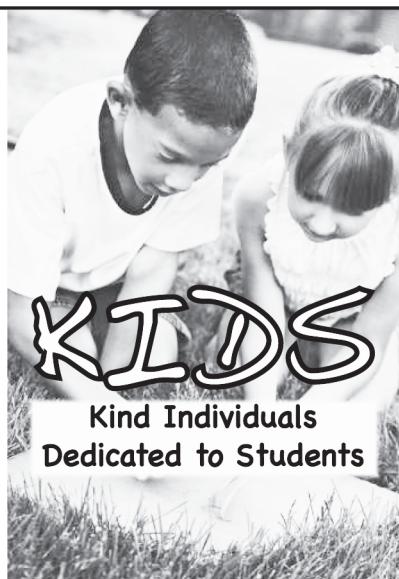
can be terrifying – you're surrounded by new people and places, the campus can be confusing at first and classes are nothing like the ones you took in high school. Don't be afraid to take these things on, it all falls into place after a while. It's not just about the new situation, either. Don't be afraid to try new things, like organizations you never pictured yourself in, or try a new style. Remember, this is college now and you need to find yourself, even if it's not what you expected. If you put confidence first and enjoy your time at Northwest, you'll be sure to have the best four years of your life thus far.

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BEARCAT FOOTBALL

'Cats Look to Continue Success in Upcoming Season

By Dustin Sander
Convergence Editor

On Saturday afternoons in the fall, the campus and city of Maryville gathers around Bearcat Stadium to cheer on the Northwest football team.

Northwest has become perennial MIAA champs and national runners-up. Winning 10 MIAA Championships in 13 seasons and appeared in six National Championship games.

Head coach Mel Tjeerdsma and the Bearcats hope to continue the success they have had in the last 10 seasons.

The 'Cats 2009 team will look much different from the '08 squad. Four offensive linemen; Reid Kirby, Tom Pestock, Matt Nelson and Jeremy Davis all graduated. The four linemen anchored the Northwest o-line for the last three seasons.

The Bearcats also lost quarterback Joel Osborn who started the last two

national championship games. Kick returner and wide receiver Kendall Wright also left the team after graduation.

Junior quarterback Blake Bolles will take the reins of the young Northwest offense with returning All-American running back LaRon Council joining him in the backfield.

Also returning is national player of the year safety Myles Burnsides and All-American defensive end Sean Padlock.

The 'Cats defense will only lose two starters from the '08 squad; cornerbacks Chris LeFlore and Brandon Clayton. This season will also mark the return of inside linebacker Troy Matthews who missed all of last season with an Achilles tear.

Last season the 'Cats came within a touchdown of the national championship for the fourth season in a row after a rocky start to the season.

The 'Cats began the regular sea-

son at home against No. eight Abilene Christian with a 44-27 loss. Northwest didn't lose another game until the national championship, and beat the same Abilene team in the national quarterfinals 45-36.

The 'Cats reached the National Championship game after beating the University of North Alabama at home on national television.

Northwest fell to University of Minnesota-Duluth 21-14 in Florence, Ala. after a failed onside kick attempt. The 'Cats failed to put any points on the board in the first three quarters going into the fourth quarter down 14-0. After Duluth scored again safety Al Foster-Rettig intercepted a pass and returned it 44 yards for the 'Cats first score. After a touchdown pass by Osborn, Northwest pulled within a touchdown. The 'Cats scoring began too late and after the failed onside kick they lost their fourth national championship in a row.



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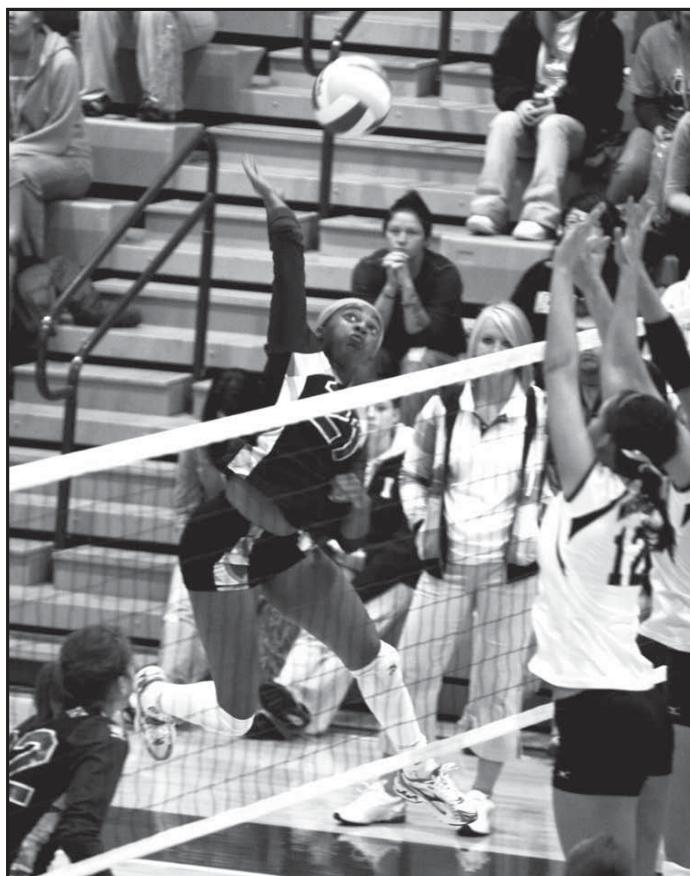
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By Brian Bosiljevac
Sports Editor

The Bearcat volleyball team will hope to bounce back in the upcoming season after the disappointing 10-23 record the 'Cats posted last season.

The experience Northwest gained last year with a young roster may pay huge dividends as the team grows one year older. The 'Cats only lose one senior from last year's roster, but may struggle filling the shoes of sophomore setter, Katie Swenson and junior outside hitter, Rachel Nisi who were let go from the squad following the 2008 season.

The 2009 season will mark the start of head coach Anna Tool's

fourth season. Tool is 41-59 at Northwest and will try pushing this year's squad into her third MIAA postseason in four years.

The 'Cats youth will again be evident as Northwest will be without any seniors in the 2009 season, but four very experienced juniors will look to lead the way.

Those four juniors include Paige Spangenberg, Sara Falcone and Amber Ryan, who were all named to the MIAA Honorable Mention team last fall.

The 'Cats will kick off the 2009 season in Memphis, Tenn. at the Christian Brothers Tournament. Northwest will follow that tournament up with its first home match on Sept. 4 in Bearcat Arena for the Comfort INNvitational.

HOME GAMES

Sept. 4 Newman 2:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 Minnesota State-Moorhead 7 p.m.
Sept. 5 Texas A&M-Commerce 2:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 Quincy 7 p.m.
Sept. 16 Washburn 7 p.m.
Sept. 25 Pittsburg State 7 p.m.
Sept. 26 Southwest Baptist 5 p.m.
Oct. 7 Nebraska-Omaha 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 Missouri Western 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 Missouri Southern 3 p.m.
Oct. 23 Fort Hays State 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 Emporia State 6 p.m.
Nov. 6 Central Missouri 7 p.m.
Nov. 13 Truman 7 p.m.

BEARCAT SOCCER

Expectations high following record setting season

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's soccer program has high expectations heading into its 10th year here at Northwest after winning a record 10 games in a season that they went 10-8-2 overall.

The Bearcats lose five seniors on the tail end of the largest recruiting class in program history.

"We expect the team to do better next year," head coach Tracy Hoza said. "Because all of those players have a year of experience under their belts we expect them to have more confidence and composure in every game and finish in games that we either lost or tied. We even want to have more fun than we did last year."

Ten Seniors will lead next year's team, including All-MIAA second-team performers Kira Lazenby at

goalkeeper and Andreea Tritz at forward. Hoza has also signed three players for next year's class.

"When players graduate, it's always a tough transition," Hoza said. "Last year's seniors really stepped up and had a fantastic year. The best thing we can take from that is that all of the seniors passed on desire and commitment. We have 10 seniors next year, if they come out with the same passion, desire and commitment, hopefully we will pick up where we left off last year. We've also got a good group coming in, but just like all newcomers

we know some will start, others will play some and some will be players that we work on for the future."

The team held spring practices throughout April and Hoza came away with mixed feelings as to what she saw during the practices.

"Our commitment to teamwork and our passion for soccer as well as school work really impressed me," Hoza said. "You always need work on everything though. Our defense did a good job, but our midfield and forwards could use work as well as using combinations to score goals."

The team takes the field Aug. 11 to begin fall practices before their first game of the Bearcat Soccer Classic on Aug. 29.



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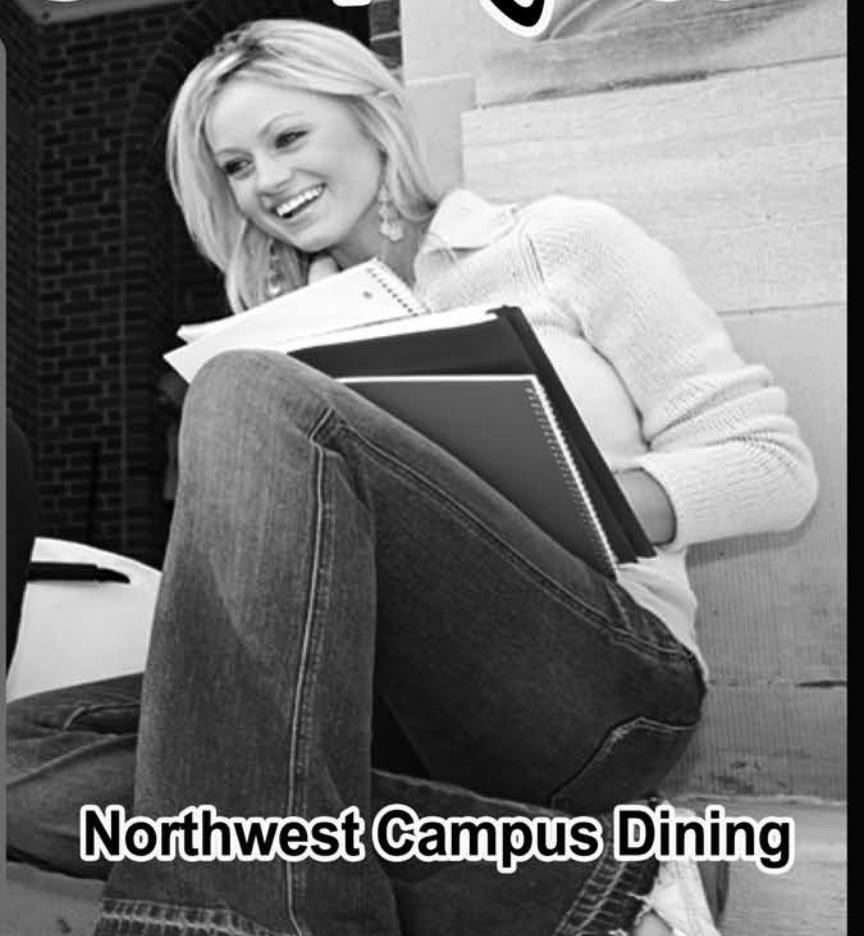
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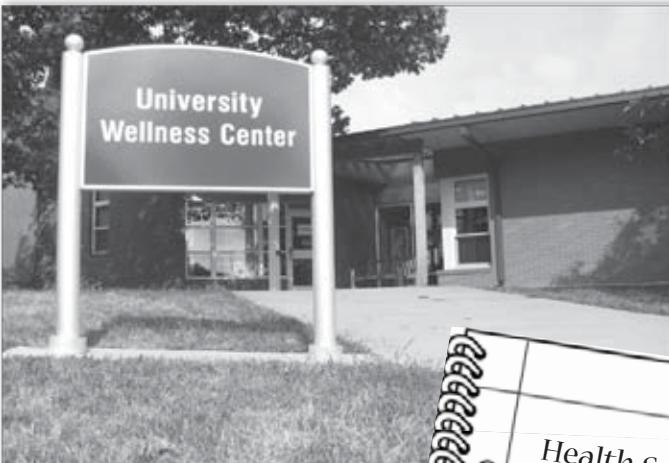
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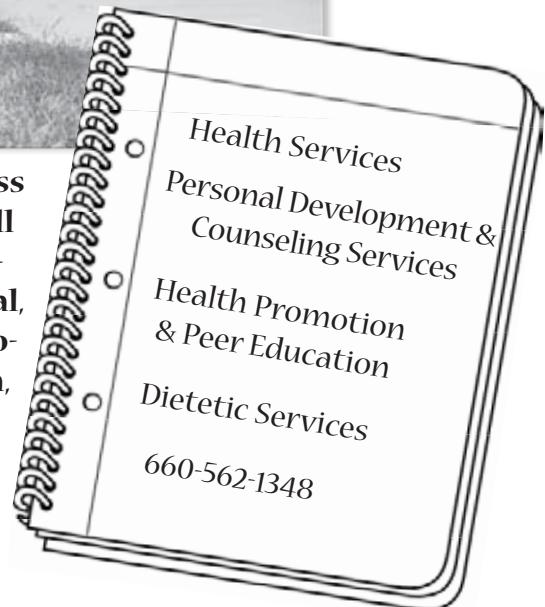
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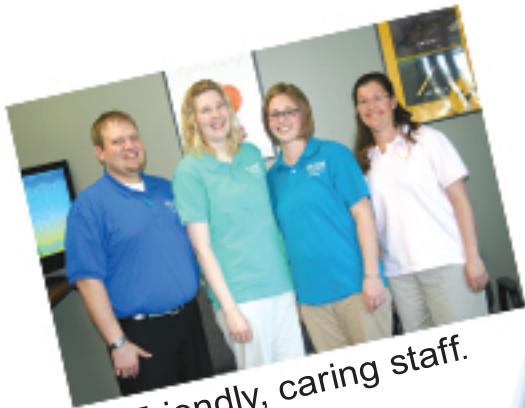
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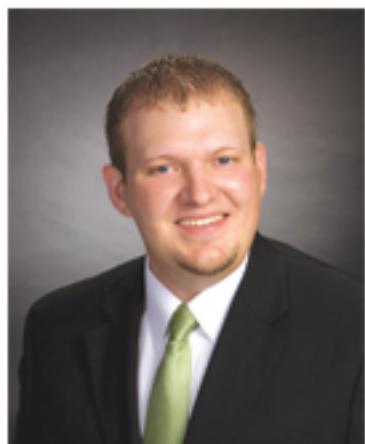
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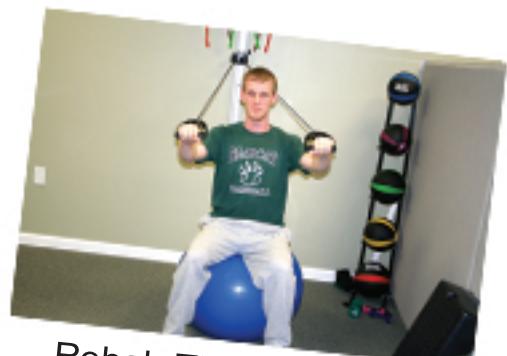
Must present ad/coupon at time of examination.
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